GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1434
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
LEAKAGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER FROM REACTORS
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has madeany request to the Nuclear Power Corporation ofIndia Ltd. to plug leakage of water contaminated with tritium from the reactors; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) The leakage of heavy water contaminated with tritium is kept at extremely low levels, and the exposure of occupational workers to tritium in the nuclear power plants in the country has been well within the limits specified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) the regulatoryagency for nuclear & radiation safety in India. However, consistent with the philosophy of `As Low As Reasonably Achievable` (ALARA)`, the AERB has recommended to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited that it further reduce the radiation exposure to workers.

(b) The steps taken to reduce the leakage of tritiated heavy water from heavy water systems of reactors of Nuclear Power Plants include reducing the number of equipment like pumps and valves, improving the design of pump seals, use of bellow sealed valves and use of graphoil packing in valves. In addition, steps like the provision of well-ventilated and light weight protective clothing, and enforcement of use of protective clothing by the radiation workers are being reinforced.